

THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN  
MARK L. PRYOR, ARKANSAS  
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA  
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI  
JON TESTER, MONTANA  
MARK BEGICH, ALASKA  
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN  
HEIDI HEITKAMP, NORTH DAKOTA

TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA  
JOHN McCain, ARIZONA  
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN  
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO  
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY  
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING  
KELLY AYOTTE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

RICHARD J. KESSLER, STAFF DIRECTOR  
KEITH B. ASHDOWN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 2, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

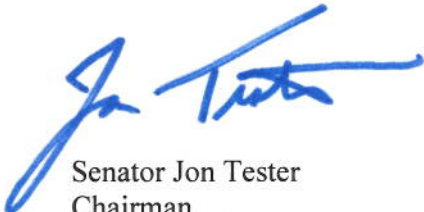
Dear Secretary Hagel:

As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee tasked with oversight of the federal workforce, we write concerning the impact of the federal government shutdown on the Defense Department civilian workforce, as well as members of the Reserve Component. We are particularly interested in the manner in which your department is implementing furloughs during the lapse in appropriations.

The Pay Our Military Act, signed into law on September 30, 2013, gave the Defense Department authority to provide pay and allowances to active duty service members, but also the latitude to include Guardsmen, reservists and civilian personnel providing support to those active duty troops. However, it remains unclear how the department will interpret and carry out this legislation. That uncertainty is providing additional hardships for Defense Department civilians who are struggling to mitigate the impacts on the government shutdown on their pocketbooks and their families, and it is forcing Guard units across the country to cancel drill exercises amidst uncertainty about whether those men and women can be paid.

The furloughs brought about by this government shutdown will undoubtedly impact the effectiveness and readiness of our military. From logistics, finance and accounting services to managing the acquisition and maintenance of much-needed capabilities for today and the future, our service members greatly depend upon these men and women to do their jobs and keep us safe. We understand that you are currently reviewing the impact of this legislation on your workforce policies. We urge you to swiftly review and implement the authority given to you, and ask that you keep our Subcommittee informed of any changes made to your workforce policies.

Sincerely,



Senator Jon Tester  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Efficiency and  
Effectiveness of Federal Programs  
and the Federal Workforce



Senator Rob Portman  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Efficiency and  
Effectiveness of Federal Programs  
and the Federal Workforce